

Members

Rep. Charlie Brown, Chairperson  
Rep. Peggy Welch  
Rep. Vaneta Becker  
Rep. Timothy Brown  
Sen. Gary Dillon  
Sen. Patricia Miller  
Sen. Allie Craycraft  
Sen. Earline Rogers  
Dr. Walter J. Daly  
Greg Wilson, M.D.  
Beverly Richards  
Michael Urban, M.D.  
Beth Compton



# COMMISSION ON EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH CARE

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Authority: P.L.220-2001 (HEA 1845)

## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** August 11, 2003  
**Meeting Time:** 2:00 P.M.  
**Meeting Place:** State House, 200 W. Washington St., the House Chambers  
**Meeting City:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 1

**Members Present:** Rep. Charlie Brown, Chairperson; Rep. Vaneta Becker; Rep. Timothy Brown; Sen. Gary Dillon; Sen. Patricia Miller; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. Earline Rogers; Dr. Walter J. Daly; Greg Wilson, M.D.; Beverly Richards; Beth Compton.

**Members Absent:** Michael Urban, M.D.; Rep. Peggy Welch.

Representative Charlie Brown called the meeting of the Commission to order at 2:10 p.m. Copies of several health related resolutions were distributed to members. (Exhibit #1) After an introduction of members, reports were received from the four subcommittees.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

**Kim Dodson, Chairperson, Long Term Care Subcommittee**

Ms. Dodson distributed a copy of the Long Term Care Subcommittee's report to Commission members. (Exhibit #2) The Subcommittee is composed of over 30 members that represent various interests in the long term care system. Three work groups have been established within the Subcommittee to identify barriers and solutions to improve delivery of long term care services. During the 2003 legislative session several pieces of legislation were introduced that encompassed the concerns and findings of the Subcommittee (e.g. SEA 493 & HEA 1837). The Subcommittee will be focusing on the Medicaid lien language that passed in the 2003 Budget Bill.

**Eleanor Kinney, J.D., MPH, Chairperson, Safety Subcommittee**

Ms. Kinney stated that the Safety Subcommittee has been meeting regularly and has divided the safety issues among the following four work groups:

- In-house Long Term Care
- Anesthesia
- Medical Licensing System and Discipline
- Patient Safety in Hospitals

The Subcommittee is continuing to meet on a regular basis and will submit a progress report at a subsequent meeting of the Commission.

During Commission discussion with Ms. Kinney, the Commission indicated that the subcommittees should report all recommendations for improving Indiana's health care system, not just legislative remedies.

**Beverly Richards, DSN, RN, Chairperson, Health Care Professions Subcommittee**

Ms. Richards stated that the Health Care Professions Subcommittee had allocated the issues among the following three work groups:

- Patient Safety Task Group - which is examining public reporting of safety concerns and actions of professional boards.
- Disciplinary Process Task Group - which is studying health care profession impairment and the effect of staffing shortages on reporting.
- Pharmacy Errors Task Group - which is considering reporting and tracking pharmacy errors.

The Subcommittee prepared a list of preliminary recommendations (Exhibit #3), including the following:

- Require boards under the Health Professions Bureau to maintain a record of disciplinary actions that is arranged by subject matter.
- Encourage the inclusion of a brief description of clinical indications in prescriptions.
- Establish better procedures to share felony arrest records of health care professionals.
- Expand nurse training programs.
- Encourage greater compliance with IC 16-21-2-6, which requires hospitals

to report medical staff disciplinary actions.

**Sam Nussbaum, M.D., Chairperson, Health Care Data and Quality Subcommittee**

Dr. Nussbaum distributed a summary of his testimony and several other supplemental written materials<sup>2</sup> that the Health Care Data and Quality Subcommittee has found to be informative. (Exhibit #4). Dr. Nussbaum cited a recent Rand Corporation report that indicated that overall 55% of U.S. healthcare was "good". This means that 45% of the healthcare in the U.S. is either not good or not necessary. A number of state and national organizations are currently examining issues involving health care quality and outcomes. The Subcommittee has contacted and is monitoring the work of these groups. The Subcommittee is currently examining the need to create a centralized state data repository that would group data into the following areas:

- Preventive care measures.
- Disease management registry for chronic illnesses.
- Birth defects registry.
- Hospital reporting.

A repository would help improve health outcomes in preventive care, chronic disease, and hospital care. The Subcommittee will continue to examine other related areas. National data indicates that Indiana is among the worst states in several key health areas, including breast cancer screening rate, overweight/obesity rate, cigarette smoking rate, and cancer death rate.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

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<sup>2</sup>Handouts include: (1) Anthem Health Index for Indiana; (2) Power Point presentation entitled "National Healthcare Quality Report and National Healthcare Disparities Report" by Carolyn Clancy, M.D.; and "Priorities Among Recommended Clinical Preventive Services" and "Methods for Priority Setting Among Clinical Preventative Services" from the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.